GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2860
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2008
POLLUTION IN RIVER MAHANADI AND BRAHMANI
Oram Shri Jual

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has conducted a study on pollution level in Mahanadi and Brahmani rivers;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to check the increase in pollution level in these rivers;

(d) whether main cause of the pollution is discharge by the heavy industries along the bank of these rivers;

(e) if so, the details of such industries; and

(f) the action taken to check them?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS(SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (c) The water quality monitoring is undertaken jointly by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and Orissa State Pollution Control Board in rivers Brahmani and Mahanadi at identified polluted stretches. As reported by CPCB, the Biological Oxygen Demand, a key indicator of water quality, is within the designated standard at all the locations in river Mahanadi and most of the locations in river Brahmani except at Panposh, Orissa.

Under the Centrally sponsored scheme of National River Conservation Plan, works for Interception and Diversion of domestic sewage and setting up of Sewage Treatment Plants have been taken up for the abatement of pollution of river Mahanadi and Brahmani in the towns of Cuttack, Talcher and Dharmashala. Besides these measures, the effluent discharged by the industries is regularly monitored by the Orissa State Pollution Control Board to check compliance with the prescribed standards. Action is taken against the defaulting units under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(d) to (f) As per the information provided by CPCB, four grossly polluting industries were discharging their effluent into river Mahanadi. Of these, one unit has been closed and remaining three units have installed requisite effluent treatment facilities. As regards river Brahmani, nine grossly polluting industries were discharging their waste water into river. Out of these, one unit has been closed and seven units have installed requisite effluent treatment facilities. One defaulting unit is facing legal action under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.